

110TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6277

To amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide a dental insurance plan for certain veterans and their survivors and dependents.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 17, 2008

Mr. BUYER introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide a dental insurance plan for certain veterans and their survivors and dependents.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Veterans and Survivors
5 Dental Insurance Act of 2008”.

1 **SEC. 2. DENTAL INSURANCE FOR VETERANS AND SUR-**
2 **VIVORS AND DEPENDENTS OF VETERANS.**

3 (a) DENTAL INSURANCE AUTHORIZED.—Subchapter
4 II of chapter 17 of title 38, United States Code, is amend-
5 ed by inserting after section 1712B the following new sec-
6 tion:

7 **“§ 1712C. Dental insurance: veterans; certain sur-**
8 **vivors and dependents of veterans**

9 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may provide a
10 dental insurance plan for the veterans and survivors and
11 dependents of veterans described in subsection (b).

12 “(b) COVERED VETERANS AND SURVIVORS AND DE-
13 PENDENTS.—The veterans and survivors and dependents
14 of veterans described in this subsection are as follows:

15 “(1) Any veteran who is enrolled in the system
16 of annual patient enrollment under section 1705 of
17 this title.

18 “(2) Any survivor or dependent of a veteran
19 who is eligible for medical care under section 1781
20 of this title.

21 “(c) BENEFITS.—The dental insurance plan under
22 this section shall provide such benefits for dental care and
23 treatment as the Secretary considers appropriate for the
24 dental insurance plan, including diagnostic services, pre-
25 ventative services, endodontics and other basic restorative
26 services, surgical services, and emergency services.

1 “(d) ENROLLMENT.—(1) Enrollment in the dental
2 insurance plan under this section shall be voluntary.

3 “(2) Enrollment in the dental insurance plan shall
4 be for such minimum period as the Secretary shall pre-
5 scribe for purposes of this section.

6 “(e) PREMIUMS.—(1) Premiums for coverage under
7 the dental insurance plan under this section shall be in
8 such amount or amounts as the Secretary shall prescribe
9 for purposes of this section.

10 “(2) The Secretary shall adjust the premiums pay-
11 able under this section for coverage under the dental in-
12 surance plan on an annual basis. Each individual covered
13 by the dental insurance plan at the time of such an adjust-
14 ment shall be notified in writing of the amount and effec-
15 tive date of such adjustment.

16 “(3) Each individual covered by the dental insurance
17 plan shall pay the entire premium for coverage under the
18 dental insurance plan.

19 “(f) VOLUNTARY DISENROLLMENT.—(1) With re-
20 spect to enrollment in the dental insurance plan under this
21 section, the Secretary shall—

22 “(A) permit the voluntary disenrollment of an
23 individual in the dental insurance plan if the
24 disenrollment occurs during the 30-day period begin-

1 ning on the date of the enrollment of the individual
2 in the dental insurance plan; and

3 “(B) permit the voluntary disenrollment of an
4 individual in the dental insurance plan for such cir-
5 cumstances as the Secretary shall prescribe for pur-
6 poses of this subsection, but only to the extent such
7 disenrollment does not jeopardize the fiscal integrity
8 of the dental insurance plan.

9 “(2) The circumstances prescribed under paragraph
10 (1)(B) shall include the following:

11 “(A) If an individual enrolled in the dental in-
12 surance plan relocates to a location outside the juris-
13 diction of the dental insurance plan that prevents
14 utilization of the benefits under the dental insurance
15 plan.

16 “(B) If an individual enrolled in the dental in-
17 surance plan is prevented by a serious medical con-
18 dition from being able to obtain benefits under the
19 dental insurance plan.

20 “(C) Such other circumstances as the Secretary
21 shall prescribe for purposes of this subsection.

22 “(3) The Secretary shall establish procedures for de-
23 terminations on the permissibility of voluntary disenroll-
24 ments under paragraph (1)(B). Such procedures shall en-

1 sure timely determinations on the permissibility of such
2 disenrollments.

3 “(g) RELATIONSHIP TO DENTAL CARE PROVIDED BY
4 SECRETARY.—Nothing in this section shall affect the re-
5 sponsibility of the Secretary to provide dental care under
6 section 1712 of this title, and the participation of an indi-
7 vidual in the dental insurance plan under this section shall
8 not affect the individual’s entitlement to outpatient dental
9 services and treatment, and related dental appliances,
10 under that section.

11 “(h) REGULATIONS.—The dental insurance plan
12 under this section shall be administered under such regu-
13 lations as the Secretary shall prescribe.”.

14 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
15 at the beginning of chapter 17 of such title is amended
16 by inserting after the item relating to section 1712B the
17 following new item:

“1712C. Dental insurance: veterans; certain survivors and dependents of vet-
erans.”.

